

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00500 231246Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 231158Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9623

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0500

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECY ROGERS FROM AMB HILL

BOGOTA PASS AMB MAILLIARD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, OAS, AR, US

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES

REF: STATE 013405; STATE 279669

1. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE VIEWS IN REFTEL. AS YOU KNOW VIGNES IS A VERY ASTUTE OBSERVER AND A CAGEY DIPLOMAT ALL TOO READY TO BE LESS THAN FORTHCOMING WITH THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING TO SAY IN RETURN. AMB MAILLIARD AND I ATTEMPTED TO FIELD HIS QUESTIONS AND EXPLORE HIS POSITIONS WITH PRETTY THIN SOUP. IMMODESTLY, I THOUGHT WE HAD WALKED THE INE PRETTY WELL AND I AM DISAPPOINTED IF WE APPEARED IN THE REPORTING CABLE TO FALL OFF THAT LINE. ESSENTIALLY ALL WE DID WITH RESPECT TO THE CUBAN ATTENDANCE ISSUE WAS TO REPEAT THE THRUST OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO VIGNES TRANSMITTED BY STATE 279669. AND IT SEEMED A SAFE THING TO DO SINCE WHAT VIGNES WAS SAYING, CONDITIONAL TENSE NOT-WITHSTANDING, WAS THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE A CONSENSUS DOES EXIST AND HE IS NOT GOING TO INVITE CUBA. MY YANKEE PROGENITORS USED TO TELL ME THAT THE BEST TIME TO FEIGN FLEXIBILITY IS WHEN THE OTHER FELLOW HAS JUST DECIDED TO DO WHAT YOU WANT HIM TO.

2. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY REAL CONFUSION (EVEN IN
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THE NUANCES) WITH RESPECT TO THE BRIEFING OF JAN 14, WHICH,

AS YOU SAY, THE SECRETARY HAD HOPED TO GIVE BUT WHICH YOU GAVE
IN HIS PLACE. WHILE THE SHORTHAND OF TELEGRAPHESE MAKES IT
SOUND AS THOUGH AMB MAILLIARD INFORMED VIGNES THAT THE SECRETARY
WAS GIVING THE BRIEFING, IN FACT HE WAS SIMPLY REPEATING WHAT
WE, VIGNES AND EVERYONE ELSE AT THE MEETING HAD READ IN THE
NEWSPAPERS THAT MORNING. VIGNES HAD ALREADY MENTIONED THE
SECRETARY'S BRIEFING IN THE PRELIMINARY CHIT CHAT AND SAID
HE DIDN'T ENVY HIM THE JOB. I AM SURE HE ENVIED YOU NO MORE.

3. FINALLY, GIVEN THAT AMB MAILLIARD AND I HAVE HAD SOME
EXPERIENCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT
WE DID NOT COMMIT THE SECRETARY TO ANYTHING REGARDING AMENDMENTS.
AGAIN, THE SHORTHAND OF TELEGRAPHESE MAY NOT SUFFICIENTLY
HAVE BROUGHT OUT THE CONDITINAL TENSE. I CALL YOUR ATTENTION
HOWEVER TO THE FACT THAT WE SAID THE SECRETARY WOULD DO IT
IF RPT IF HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY AND COULD BE USEFUL.
ALL WE WANTED TO DO, AND DID, WAS ASSURE VIGNES OF THE
SECRETARY'S COMPLETE GOOD FAITH IN THIS MATTER AND THAT IF RPT
IT IT APPEARED THAT AMENDMENTS, OR CLARIFICATIONS, WERE IN ORDER,
HE IS WILLING TO BE HELPFUL.
HILL

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